REMARKS

This AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 is filed in reply to the outstanding Final Rejection of December 2, 2003, and is believed to <u>prima facie</u> place this case in condition for allowance for reasons set forth below in greater detail.

The present Amendment cancels all rejected claims, leaving only allowed claims 31, 34/31, 35-41, 42/31, 42/36-40, 45/31, 45/36-40, 48 and 49.

Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested as a matter of right.

A set of corrected formal drawings in a Transmittal of Formal Drawings will be filed in due course herein.

This application is now believed to be <u>prima facie</u> in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

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WCR/jf